

Indo-Chinese Trade

2935. SHRI R. SURENDER
REDDY:
SHRI SURYA NARAIN
YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the visit of the Chinese Prime Minister to India, the scope for raising Indo-Chinese trade have improved;

(b) if so, the extent to which the trade between India and China have improved;

(c) the details of agreements reached in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken to further improve the trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The period is too short to assess the progress in this regard.

(c) and (d). During the recent meeting of India-China Joint Group on Economic Cooperation, Trade Science and Technology held in New Delhi on 12-13 December, 1991, the following areas of Economic Cooperation were identified:

- (i) To explore the possibilities for establishment of joint ventures.
- (ii) To explore possibility of bilateral cooperation in iron ore mining, railway sector, communication, aviation, waste conservancy, construction, iron and steel processing.
- (iii) To participate in tenders for proj-

ects to be financed by World Bank, by World Bank, ADB or other international financial institutions in either country.

(iv) To explore the possibility of jointly participating in third country projects.

(v) To explore the possibility of export of constancy services from India.

(vi) The items of export and import interest for either country were identified and included in the trade protocol for the calendar year 1992.

(vii) A memorandum for resumption of border trade with China was also signed on 13.12.91.

[Translation]**Return of Goans Gold Jewellery by Portugal**

2936. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gold jewellery of Goans held in Portuguese banks has since been returned fully;

(b) if not, the value of jewellery which is still in Portuguese custody;

(c) whether the interest for the period for which the gold jewellery of Goans remained with Portugal was also paid by them;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to claim the interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) In terms of an agreement entered into between State bank of India (SBI) and Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU), Lisbon, sealed packets containing the 'security' for gold loans was repatriated to India in August, 1991.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No interest for the period for which the gold/jewellery remained with BNU, Lisbon has been paid by BNU to the borrowers.

(d) and (e). The Goans had taken gold loans from the then branches of BNU in Goa against the security of gold ornaments. In all such cases, the interest is payable by the borrowers and not by the bank.

[English]

Deductions Made by Coffee Board

2937. SHRI C. P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deductions made by the Coffee Board from coffee growers for marketing expenses such as cost of storing, curing, marketing and also statutory taxes and duties are much higher than all other such boards in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) he steps proposed to be taken by the Government to minimise such deductions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The actual marketing expenses of coffee are deducted from

the total sales realisation before making payments to the coffee growers for the value of the coffee delivered by them. The marketing expenses are around 5 percent of the total realisations. Such centralised marketing is not done by the Tea, Rubber or Spices Board.

(c) The steps being taken to minimise marketing expenses include identification and phasing out surplus staff, stoppage of new recruitment, surrendering of telephones etc.

Import of Newsprint

2938. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to double the import of newsprint to meet the country's demand;

(b) whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been prepared for the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the main points of the proposed plan; and

(d) the quantity of newsprint imported during 1990-91 and proposed to be imported during the next three years,

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

(d) The quantity of newsprint imported during 1990-91 and 1991-92 along with the names of the countries of import are given below:-